

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Worcester County Developmental Center Inventory Number: WO-567  
Address: 8545 Newark Road Historic district: yes ☒ no  
City: Newark Zip Code: 21841 County: Worcester  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Ninepin Branch  
Property Owner: Worcester County Developmental Center Inc. Tax Account ID Number: 001087  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 115 Tax Map Number: 40  
Project: Historic Structures Survey along US-113 Agency: Maryland SHA  
Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company  
Preparer's Name: Roy Hampton Date Prepared: 9/27/2007

Documentation is presented in: Compliance Report and Historic Context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The building was demolished as a result of a fire on September 5, 2007. The building description and significance statement will be found in the attached MIHP form.

NRHP Recommendation: Not eligible

Criterion A: The building was part of the public school system in Worcester county, although it appears that the building was used only as a school from 1930 to about 1965. In addition, the school was not very large and not highly significant in the history of public education in Worcester County. The building is recommended as not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B: The building was not associated with any persons of historical significance and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The building was a small, plain brick school and appears to have been one of several buildings of its type completed as an improvement of public school facilities around 1930. The building was not designed in any specific architectural style and

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: DESTROYED BY FIRE

*Tim J. [Signature]*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

5/20/08  
Date

N/A  
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

did not appear to have any distinctive layout features. The building did not have sufficient architectural significance to be eligible for the NRHP.

Criterion D: The building appeared to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion D.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D      Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Name of Property:** Worcester County Developmental Center

**MIHP Number:** WO-567

**Location:** 8545 Newark Road

**Town / Vicinity:** Newark

**Date of Construction:** 1930

**Access:** ☒ Public ☐ Private

The building was demolished due to a fire in September 2007. The building was a brick one-story structure with a hipped roof and asphalt shingles. The façade featured four, four-light steel windows and a flat steel replacement door. The building had a red brick exterior and no cornice, but the façade featured sandstone quoins. The side walls had some areas in which former window openings had been filled in with vinyl siding. The building had a gravel parking lot in front and was used as a social services center.

Constructed in 1930, the building had some significance in the area of education, but it was only in operation as a school for a short time. It was marginally significant in terms of architecture since it was one of only a few remaining institutional buildings in Newark. The building is recommended not eligible for the NRHP. Under Criterion A, the building was part of the public school system in Worcester County, although it was not highly significant. Under Criterion B, the building was not associated with any persons of historical significance. Under Criterion C, the building was a plain brick school and appears to have been one of several buildings of its type. The building was not designed in any specific architectural style and did not appear to have any distinctive layout features. Under Criterion D, the building appeared to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

The Maryland real property database gives 1930 as the construction date for the Worcester County Developmental Center. The building was originally constructed as a school as part of a school consolidation program. The school was closed in the 1960s. The Maryland real property database shows that the Worcester County Board of Education sold the building in 1971 to the county commissioners. The school was converted into the Worcester County Developmental Center and began operating as such on September 4, 1973.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-567

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Newark Elementary School

other Worcester County Developmental Center (preferred name)

### 2. Location

street and number 8545 Newark Rd. not for publication

city, town Newark vicinity

county Worcester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Worcester County Developmental Center Inc.

street and number PO Box 70 telephone

city, town Newark state MD zip code 21841

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber 301 folio 552

city, town Snow Hill tax map 40 tax parcel 115 tax ID number 001087

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District

☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER

☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

☒ Other: Compliance Report and Historic context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health care	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. WO-567

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Worcester County Developmental Center was located in the small town of Newark, Maryland in Worcester County. The Center was located on the north side of Newark Road on the east side of town. The building was surrounded by single family houses most of which date to the late-nineteenth century or the early-twentieth century. The Center was located on parcel 115, map 40. The parcel is a long, narrow lot with the narrow side fronting Newark Road. A gravel parking lot was located in front of the building on the south side of the lot. State of Maryland real estate records indicate that the building was constructed in 1930. The Center was demolished as a result of the fire on September 5, 2007.

The Worcester County Developmental Center was a one-story structure with a hipped roof clad in modern asphalt shingles. The building had no cornice under the roofline. The building had load-bearing red-brick walls with sandstone quoins at the façade corners. The façade featured four narrow, two-over-two steel windows with brick lintels. The main entrance of the building could be accessed by either a small flight of concrete steps or a concrete ramp with metal pipe railing. The building's original main door had been replaced by a modern flat steel door with one light. The building's original entrance would have been more ornate than the entrance observed during field inspection. Two pilasters were located on either side of the entrance. Much of the entrance was hidden behind a modern blue awning, but the awning alteration was easily reversible. The side walls of the main portion of the building had some areas in which former window openings had been filled in with vinyl siding and short, modern one-over-one windows had been installed. This window infill was not reversible.

The wings on either side of the building were one-story high with red load-bearing brick walls. The wings had flat roofs with no cornice or ornamentation. The wings had retained a few original twelve-over-twelve windows. The two side wings were compatible with the main building and were either original to the building or were very early additions. A few decorative shrubs were located in front of the building.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WO-567

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1930

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary of Significance

Constructed in 1930, the building had some significance in the area of education as the building was originally constructed as an elementary school. However the building was only in operation as a school for thirty-five years. Despite the building's multiple alterations, it was marginally significant in terms of architecture since it was one of only a few remaining institutional buildings in Newark.

In terms of National Register of Historic Places eligibility the building lacked the significance and integrity necessary for inclusion. Due to alterations the building had lost integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Under Criterion A, the building was part of the public school system in Worcester county, although it appears that the building was only used as a school from 1930 to about 1965. In addition, from the size of the building, it appears that the school was not very large and not highly significant in the history of public education in Worcester County. Under Criterion B, the building was not associated with any persons of historical significance. Under Criterion C, the building was a small, plain brick school and appears to have been one of several buildings of its type completed as an improvement of public school facilities around 1930. The building was not designed in any specific architectural style and did not appear to have any distinctive layout features. The building did not have sufficient architectural significance for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C. Under Criterion D, the building appeared to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

### Historic Context

#### Newark

The Worcester County Developmental Center was located in the small town of Newark, Maryland. Newark began as a cluster of development at the crossing of two roads, Newark Road, which once connected the town to Snow Hill and Berlin, and a second road that is now known on the south side of Newark Road as Langmaid Road, and on the north side as Patey Woods Road. The beginnings of a village at the intersection can be traced to the late eighteenth century, with Langmaid Road providing access to commercial landings on Chincoteague Bay. In 1793, the site was part of a land tract known as Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul B. Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, (Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992), 298.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-567

Name Worcester County Developmental Center  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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It is thought that by 1800, the intersection Newark Road and Langmaid Road probably contained a meeting house, a few dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a tavern.<sup>2</sup> The earliest map found that names the town is an 1839 anonymous map of Maryland, which labels the settlement as "Newark." The Newark name may have originated from an early name for the town's Methodist Episcopal Church that was named New Ark of the Covenant Church.<sup>3</sup> Another account states that resident A.P. Bowen claimed, in the early twentieth century, that the name had come from a large wood frame building constructed at the town center that was nicknamed "the new ark" because of its resemblance to the biblical Noah's ark.<sup>4</sup>

On an 1877 Lake Griffing atlas, Newark contained one hotel, three retail stores, and three buildings marked G.S. Richardson and Company. Single family residences extended southwest on Newark Road, to the tracks of the Breakwater, Frankford and Worcester Railroad. On Patey Woods Road, single-family house development also extends up to the railroad tracks. The town is shown with about 20 houses, the one-room Schoolhouse No. 3 on Newark Road, and a Methodist Episcopal church. A railroad depot is shown, close to the location of the current 1910-1911 Queponco Station, and a building labeled S.S. Mill was located along the tracks south of the depot building.

Currently, the center of the town features few pre-1900 buildings. This is due to a severe fire in 1905 that destroyed the town's millinery shop, Odd Fellows' Hall, and several houses.<sup>5</sup> In 1918, the Home Bank of Newark was organized, and operated out of a one-room wood frame building, and in 1919, a brick building replaced the previous frame building.<sup>6</sup> Industrial development in twentieth century Newark remained very limited in comparison to development in the Worcester County communities of Snow Hill, Pocomoke City, and Berlin.

Most of the existing single-family houses in Newark today were built from about 1900-1930, according to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records.<sup>7</sup> Construction in the town slowed during the 1930s depression and World War II.<sup>8</sup> In the post-World War II economic expansion of the 1950s and 1960s, several Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch style houses were built on vacant lots in the developed section of Newark, or on the town's outer fringes.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Reginald Truitt and Millard Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia* (Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977), 96.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 96.

<sup>6</sup> Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*, (Worcester County Board of Education: 1956), 26-27.

<sup>7</sup> Truitt and Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*, 96.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 339.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-567

Name Worcester County Developmental Center  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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In 1956, work began on a bypass road that took US 113 around the south side of Newark, and routed highway traffic away from Newark's central intersection. Today, Newark is mostly residential, with the post office and Mercantile Peninsula Bank buildings being the main non-residential buildings at the town center. Newark also features an RV sales and repair business and a lumber firm, located near the railroad tracks on Patey Woods Road.

### *The Worcester County Developmental Center: 8545 Newark Road*

The Worcester County Developmental Center was originally used as a school. The first evidence of a school in the town of Newark appears on an 1877 atlas that shows Schoolhouse Number 3 located in Newark southwest of the Langmaid Road-Newark Road intersection on the south side of Newark Road. Schoolhouse Number 3 was a one-room schoolhouse which was the common school facility at the time. Early on, Worcester County schools suffered from equipment shortages, and a restrictive curriculum that relied heavily on rote learning. Also at this time, the school system was racially segregated, with the Newark one-room schoolhouse listed as being used as a black school.<sup>9</sup>

In 1930, an extensive program of Worcester County school improvements was undertaken by the county. A consolidation program was enacted that closed ten small schoolhouses including Schoolhouse Number 3 in Newark. These small facilities were to be replaced with new larger high schools in Pocomoke, Snow Hill and Berlin and large elementary schools in Bishopville and Newark.<sup>10</sup> The building currently serving as the Worcester County Developmental Center was constructed as part of this consolidation program.

At the time the school was built in 1930, it was located on the outskirts of town surrounded by a few sparsely spaced farms. However, on a 1950 Maryland Geological Survey map, the building is labeled as an elementary school and Newark had expanded eastward so that the school is surrounded by an assortment of single family houses. According to Ralph L. Mason Jr., a Newark resident, the elementary school building included grades one through seven. The school was closed around 1965, and Newark students were bused to Snow Hill

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 338-339, 355.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 339.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-567

Name Worcester County Developmental Center  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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schools.<sup>11</sup> According to State of Maryland real estate records, the Worcester County Board of Education transferred the building in 1971 to the county commissioners for \$0.<sup>12</sup> The elementary school was converted into the Worcester County Developmental Center and began operating as such on September 4, 1973. The Center was founded by a group of parents of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Center is a private non-profit organization designed to provide opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Ralph L. Mason Jr., Phone Interview conducted by Roy Hampton, June 20, 2007, Notes on file at Hardlines Design Company.

<sup>12</sup> Worcester County Courthouse, Deed Book FWH 301, Page 552.

<sup>13</sup> Worcester County Developmental Center, Inc, "About Us" <http://www.wcdcservices.org/about-us-2.html> (accessed June 27, 2007).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WO-567

Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*. 1956, on file at Worcester County Room, Snow Hill Public Library.  
Lewis, J. Frank. *The Maryland Directory*. Baltimore: J. Frank Lewis and Company, 1878.  
Mason, Ralph L., Jr. Phone Interview conducted by Roy Hampton, June 20, 2007. Notes on file at Hardlines Design Company.  
Touart, Paul B. *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 3 acres  
Quadrangle name Ninepin Branch

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Worcester County Developmental Center is bounded by parcel 115, map 40 of Worcester County. The current boundary and the historical boundary for the property are identical, as the property boundaries for the building have not changed. The boundary is large enough to encompass the entire building and corresponds to the historical boundary of the property. See attached parcel map.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Roy Hampton, Senior Architectural Historian and Heather Kenney, Architectural Historian		
organization	Hardlines Design Company	date	06/08/2007
street & number	4608 Indianola Ave.	telephone	614-784-8733
city or town	Columbus	state	OH

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-567

Name Worcester County Developmental Center  
**Continuation Sheet**

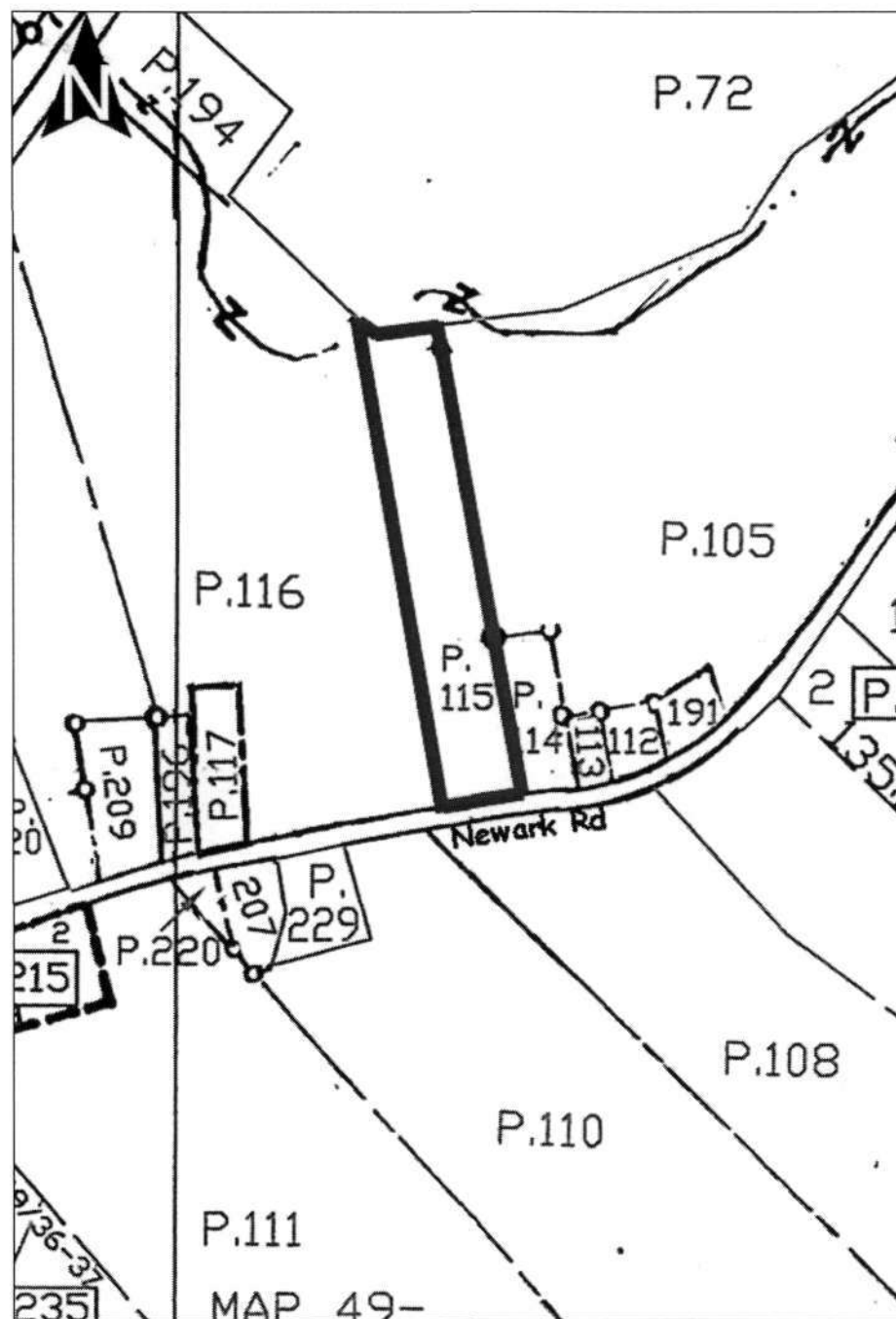
Number 9 Page 1

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Truitt, Reginald and Millard Les Callette. *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*. Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977.

Worcester County Courthouse, Deed Book FWH 301, Page 552.

Worcester County Developmental Center, Inc. "About Us." <http://www.wcdcservices.org/about-us-2.html> (accessed June 27, 2007).



WO-567, Worcester County Developmental Center, Newark, Worcester County, Resource Sketch Map-Tax Map 40, Parcel 115



WO-567, Worcester County Developmental Center, Newark, Worcester County, Ninepin Branch Quad





Inventory No. WD-567

Worcester County Developmental Center

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Southwest corner of building looking northeast.

#1 of 2



Inventory No. WD-567

Worcester County Developmental Center

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 24, 2007

Southeast corner of building looking north west.

#2 of 2